

## AHEC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 8:00pm @Zoom

### Attendees:

Adam  
Allison  
Amanda  
Andrew  
Haosheng  
Katie  
Amogh Sood  
Yu Ren Zhou

Minutes: Jacqueline

### [Update] Outside meetings

- Activities: nothing
- HCA: nothing
- Sustainability: nothing
- GSC: pods, discussed below

### [Discussion] Drafting pod (and guest) policy & recent survey results

- One member of GSC championed pod effort and set up meeting yesterday to discuss it; survey on pods from AHEC meant to get feedback from residents
  - Pods: 6 people in one residence hall, entirely within people's apartments, implementation of pods would cancel 1-guest policy as anyone having guest over would expose all members of pod
    - No cross-dorm pods allowed
- Main findings: most responses from Ashdown (also sent to Ashdown the earliest but all dorms represented)
  - No dorm really enthusiastic for pods, but some people want cross-dorm pods
    - In some dorms, close to 50% of those who responded want pods
    - In Ashdown, no plurality but greatest number of people were against pods
  - All dorms wanted guest policy changed in some way
    - e.g. allowing people already in COVID Pass or MIT residence hall
  - All dorms preferred expanding guest policy over introducing pods
    - Some against pods because they'd want guests from different dorms or outside of MIT residence halls
- Amanda to update main findings slides for meeting with Housing tomorrow
- Separate from pods, subcommittee of Housing plans to review guest policy in mid-October
- There's been talk about having Policy vs policy for pods – policy set in stone vs tweakable guidelines by circumstance

- Would be helpful to know scope of possibility
- Pods look very different in undergrads as undergrad residents are mostly seniors, all in single rooms and common space use is more trackable
  - Grad residents don't all know each other (and don't all socialize within their grad dorm), internal lottery system and matching survey would need to be tweaked to account for pods, common space use would mean calculations on ventilation spreadsheet
- Adam to advocate in tomorrow's meeting that if pods were to be put in place, they shouldn't have to be implemented in all dorms

[Discussion] Forming resident committee to give feedback on Housing policies

- Residents have been asking if they could join a committee to give feedback or have town halls on Housing policies
- Would have to send out another survey about interest in joining such a committee
- In lieu of forming a committee, could have residents work through other avenues like talking directly to Housing, attending AHEC meetings, or reaching out to GSC (and have AHEC and GSC reach out to Housing)
  - Might complicate things to add another layer of communication (student committee)
  - Might complicate AHEC and HCA's missions if they end up becoming the voice for resident housing and divert from their other initiatives
  - GSC Housing committee (HCA) might have initiative for students (Student Solutions Group) to participate in decision-making
    - SSG-Residential Life wing doesn't exist currently, didn't get much interest during signup period so it's full of exec appointees and hasn't been used as intended
    - Adam to ask Judy and Naomi about stimulating activity in SSG as there's now interest

[Update] Recent committee events (e.g. Brunch)

- 130 people signed up for food and included QR code in bags with food, but virtual hangout was dead (averaged 5 people, mostly officers)
- Didn't have external volunteers, only Brunch officers helped package and deliver but had enough help
- gather.town was a nice platform for Brunch, but nothing interesting was happening to retain those who did show up
  - Also heard about wifi problems on some floors keeping people from joining gather.town
  - Don't think room size was too big; those who were there ended up concentrated in one area
  - gather.town's mobile version was difficult to use, so technical issues with mobile version when read off QR code might have discouraged more people
- Brunch needs to come up with a way to get people to stick around and do things together since initiating conversations didn't seem to work well

- Will explore trivia and brainstorm more during next Brunch meeting
- Downforacross worked well for Events, other online puzzles might also work
- Generally, virtual events have been working well in activity-focused small groups and have found it difficult to foster conversation in large groups; having talkative people willing to initiate conversations make things less awkward
  - Expect virtual participation to decrease as people get busier, so might have to make things more exciting
  - In the past, HoH would stand at doors of events and ask people who seemed to be leaving after getting food if they could stay for a little longer and socialize
- Might want to start off with a Zoom meeting and break out into gather.town from there

#### [Update] WiFi

- People have been submitting tickets to IS&T and wondering if WiFi outage zones are concentrated in specific areas or if there are any other trends
  - Last survey (sent 1 month ago) found no trend in building or floor, but slight preference on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - Future survey could include location info (e.g. near elevator, near door)
- IS&T is working on it, they've installed docks in some residents' Ethernet ports and other room-to-room service requests
- Having residents set up their own routers could be running interference and making things worse for others
  - This could be why so many people are seeing issues – others nearby made adjustments for working from home that interfere with existing setup
- WiFi surveys have had pretty high (and fast) response rates
- Amanda to send another survey asking type of issue (accessing or connecting), how often it happens, and where they're trying to access from (room number)
  - Could wait until end of installation of access points
  - End survey with call to submit tickets as that's how IS&T gets more info on how to solve the problem
- IS&T says that once they fix WiFi, Ethernet speeds will be faster

#### [Update] Recent outdoor HoH events

- Attendance was light but enthusiastic
- Katie had one last week
- Deirdre and Adam collapsed two into one: about 8 people showed up and stayed for an hour
  - Have boxes of snacks left over
  - Amanda to ask Events if they want snacks left over from HoH events
  - Allison to let Coffee Hour know if there are extra snacks

#### [Update] Budgets and upcoming committee/HoH events

- First week of October will be Coffee Hour
  - Allison to ask if Coffee Hour is planning a themed event for Halloween

[Update] RISE event planning

- Tabled for next week since Kru isn't here

[Discussion] Propose cross- or in-dorm pen pal program

- Alternative way to get to know people
- Could be assigned randomly or matched through common interests/major/hobbies
- Could be just Ashdown or extended to other dorms since it would be email communication
- Amanda to contact Grad Dorm Officers Slack and see if anyone else has done something similar

[Update] Back-of-door flyers

- Can from Publicity is printing these, will past to front desk and front desk will distribute to mailboxes
  - Will have more than we need

[Update] New door nametags

- Allison waiting for prints from CopyTech, Weiyue has received magnets, need floor officers to distribute when ready

[Update] Officer poster

- Ask Committees to send in photos and give deadline
  - Haosheng to check with Can on deadline
- Can add additional photos if more people are hired in the Spring semester

[Update] Welcome tote distribution

- Amanda distributed 30 more this weekend
- Have had a handful of people email to request them so will do another delivery on Friday
  - Will keep extras in Hulsizer room and try to do another distribution next semester

[Update] Intersection Albany and Mass Ave

- Katie waiting to hear back about meeting, will send another email

[Discussion] Resident concerns about building temperature control

- Heating system can only run cool or hot (2-pipe system not 4-pipe system) and seasons are tricky for a week, so these concerns come up twice a year with temperature swings and this round of complaints is normal (every Fall, every Spring)
  - There's an auto switchover if a temp is hit for 48 hours, but it can be overridden – currently Facilities is trying to override
  - Front desk keeps space heaters that aren't strictly able to be checked out anymore, but should be available for use by people who really need it
- Forecast for next week is 78-80°F, so might expect more complaints for cooling soon

[Update] Possibility of internal lottery

- Lottery might be too soon since we're still figuring out guest and pod policy
  - Also, doing one now could run into public health issues
  - But there have already been request to move for all sorts of reasons and might urgently need this lottery
- Some requests are just to be moved into another room within the same apartment and wouldn't change rent (e.g. single person in 3-person room who's been told by housing to wait for internal lottery)
  - Can internal lotteries be restricted to this type of case? Does there need to be an internal lottery for this?
  - Possible Housing is currently assigning people to empty rooms from waitlist, could be plans to assign by Oct 2 (waiting list self-selection)
    - Expect Oct 2 to also be the last day of move-ins for the fall
    - Currently lottery is expected to be Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – Oct 16<sup>th</sup> (but was originally told lottery wouldn't be until mid-November)
    - Consider asking Housing whether we can have people switch bedrooms within an apartment without having an internal lottery
- Allison to ask Housing (Nicole) if we can push lottery back so there's time to make major policy decisions

[Update] Suggestion box

- About heating

[Discussion] Birds

- Resident asked about making glass-enclosed walkways more bird-friendly
  - Allison working with them to build proposal to float to residents and GSC Sustainability
- In the past there've been bird stickers to prevent birds from crashing into it, aren't always replaced when they fall down (and have been down for at least a year)
  - Could contact Denise for more bird stickers
- Could ask an officer to take on checking in on bird stickers monthly so it doesn't fall through the cracks

[Discussion] Lockouts

- People were not being left in even though attested; has been fixed and front desk staff now told to let people in
- Lockouts have been effective in getting the handful of people who haven't been submitting attestations to keep up with them

Presided by Amanda  
Meeting adjourned